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Charitable Registration #  
136473717RR0001  
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**Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario to break ground on four homes**

**July 4, 2017 – London, ON** – As part of a national Habitat for Humanity initiative to build 150 homes for Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario will break ground on four homes on July 10, 2017. The celebration takes place at 10:00AM in London and 2:00PM in St Thomas.

At 20 and 22 Forbes St. London, the Kassa family and the Cooper family will become homeowners, and in St Thomas at 40 Alma Street, the Wilson family will take ownership of a home. Habitat Heartland is still searching for a qualifying family to occupy the second home being built in St Thomas. These builds are part of Habitat’s Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project.

The 2017 Carter Work Project will collectively serve 150 families in honour of Canada’s 150th anniversary. This project is a catalyst to inspire and mobilize Canadians to take action and become part of the solution to our country’s affordable housing crisis. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter will be spending their time building in Edmonton and Winnipeg.

Awatash Kassa is a single mother who will buy one of the homes on Forbes Street. She balances working full-time with parenting and works nights so that she can support her family and accommodate her daughter Lemlem’s special needs. Lemlem is 36 years old and has Cerebral Palsy. Awatash also has a son, Mennor, who is a 20 year old Western student. He is studying Chemistry and is interested in pursuing a career in the Medical Science field. Living at home, Mennor is devoted to his sister and shares responsibility for her care with his mother.

George and Viola Cooper, also will be purchasing a home on Forbes Street. They currently live with their three daughters and two sons in an 800 square foot apartment. The Cooper’s daughter Alice and son George Jr. enjoy the Boys and Girls Club and take part in music and sports programs in school. Like all Habitat families, the Coopers have completed 500 volunteer hours in order to qualify to be homeowners in the program.

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They will purchase their home with no down payment, and through a zero-interest mortgage.

In St Thomas, Tina Wilson has two sons, Heath 15 who has autism and Reed 13. Tina has always worked in customer service and the boys attend high school in St. Thomas. Tina looks forward to owning her own home and says, “We will have a place to call our own, a place for both boys to live and thrive. A home will enrich their lives in a very positive manner. We feel extremely fortunate to be given this opportunity we would not otherwise be able to obtain.” Tina is a valued volunteer for Habitat Heartland, freely giving her time and voice to the organization. We are very excited to be building in St Thomas for the Wilson family.

The public are invited to come out to both locations and celebrate with the Habitat partner families. A community BBQ will follow the ceremonies.

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**Who:** Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario

**What:** Habitat for Humanity Build – 20 and 22 Forbes Street, London and 40 Alma Street, St Thomas. Community BBQ to follow in London on the build site, and in St Thomas at Horton Farmers’ Market, 10 Manitoba Street.

**When:** July 10 at 10:00AM in London and 2:00PM in St Thomas

**Contact:** Sharon Brennan [sbrennan@habitat4home.ca](mailto:sbrennan@habitat4home.ca) 519 455 6623 ext 231

**About Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario**

No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life. We deserve to feel strength and stability day after day. We deserve to know we have the power to take care of ourselves and build our own futures. At Habitat for Humanity, this is what unites us. Through shelter, we empower. Our shared vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Because you, me, we — we’re all humans. And every single one of us deserves the opportunity for a better future.

Since 1993 Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario has built 69 homes in Oxford, Middlesex, Elgin and Perth counties. We have built 20 additional homes internationally. We have opened six ReStores, our retail social enterprise which sells new and gently used building supplies and furniture and funds our operations.

As part of an International movement, we have built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 600,000 houses worldwide, providing safe, decent and affordable shelter for more than 6.8 million people in 1400 communities in 70 countries.

**Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project**

July 9-14, 2017 | Canada

## With thanks to our partners

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